

Beginner Farmer Training

Have you always wanted to try farming, but just didn't know how to get started? This may just be what you've needed. The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will hold a workshop for potential new farmers. The workshop will be held at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Upper Deerfield on four 3 hour evening sessions: February 14 and 23, March 2 and 7, and a 6 hour session on Saturday March 11. The charge for the series is \$100.00 to cover program costs. Each additional family member may register for \$50.00

This Beginner Farmer Training is designed for someone with little or no farming experience.

Participants will be introduced to the history and future of agriculture in New Jersey, organizations that support agriculture, an overview of business possibilities, and a brief review of support available to producers, production systems, marketing and planning.

If interested contact the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 121 Northville Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302, telephone (856) 455-3100.

Session One - Tuesday - February 14, 2006
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Area Of Discussion	Instructor(s)
Welcome / Course Introduction Instructor & Participant introductions Go over questionnaires returned by participants	Bill Nicholson - RAREC 15 min
Introduction to Agriculture in New Jersey Past, Present, and Future 20 min lecture 10 min disc.	Robert Bruch - NJ Dept. of Ag. 30 min
Support Available to Farmers in New Jersey Dept. of AG resources & programs Funding / loans Other	Karen Kritz & Robert Bruch NJ Dept. of Ag. 45 min
BREAK	15 minutes
Some, not all, of the Legal and Social Issues to Consider as a beginning Farmer, and Who Can Help Me? Local State and Federal Social	Karen Kritz & Robert Bruch 90 min
Distribute Self Assessment Work Sheets	Bill Nicholson

Session Two – Thursday - February 23, 2006

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Area Of Discussion	Instructor(s)
Introduce Speakers	Bill Nicholson
Production Systems	Jack Rabin
Typical operation size, labor input, financial input, pros and cons	30 - 40 min total
BREAK	20
Planning – Is it important? What is a Business Plan? What do I consider if I own, plan to rent, or plan to purchase? Class exercise	Rick Van Vranken, Ray Samulis, Bill Nicholson 30 min lecture & remainder group work and self assessments

Session Three - Thursday - March 2, 2006

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Area Of Discussion	Instructor(s)
Marketing Plan: Where and How do I sell? Retail Roadside stand or Farm market Community supported agriculture Community farmer's markets Pick your own Internet Other Wholesale Grower cooperatives Grocers Distribute Self Assessment Work Sheets	90 minutes Primarily lecture with class participation, especially in pros & cons, Personal traits needed, etc. (20 min Break around 7:15)

Session Four – Tuesday - March, 7 2006

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Area Of Discussion	Instructor(s)
Production Possibilities - General description of each with pros and cons (BREAKOUT SESSIONS IF NECESSARY)	Wes Kline – Cumberland County Extension Michelle Infante-Casella – Gloucester County Extension Jenny Carleo – Atlantic County Extension 90 min
BREAK	20 min
Real Life Experiences – Three producers (15-20 min each) Each will go over their background Description of their farm operation How they started Q & A Session	Panelists: Shirley Kline Robert Bruch Michael Griffith 90 min

Session Five – Saturday - March, 11 2006

9:00 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Area Of Discussion	Instructor(s)
Farm Equipment and Implements Description and demonstration What do I purchase for my planned farm business? Tractors Implements Soil Samples – when and how to take What methods of irrigation are available	RAREC Farm Team: Bill Pompper Ed Castellari Scott Hitchner Jesse Smith 2 hr
Lunch	90 min
Continue Farm Equipment and Implements	2 ½ hr
Course Evaluation and suggestions for the next more intensive workshops.	20 min